

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
DODE-00 /077 W
-----078660 111855Z /53

R 101626Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5611
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1741

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, NO, UR, PL,SV
SUBJ: SVALBARD--HELICOPTER INCIDENT

1. ON MARCH 24, NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES WERE AGAIN CONFRONTED BY SOVIET LACK OF COMPLIANCE WITH GON ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ON SVALBARD. IN THIS INSTANCE, A SOVIET HELICOPTER WAS EMPLOYED TO REMOVE AN OLD JEEP FROM THE POLISH RESEARCH STATION IN THE SPTIZBERGEN NATIONAL PARK.

2. THE SOVIETS WOULD, IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS, HAVE HAD TO ASK PERMISSION FROM THE GON AAUTHORITIES FOR HELICOPTER LANDINGS IN THE PARK. NO SUCH PERMISSION WAS REQUESTED. WHEN THE NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES BEGAN TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT, THEY RECEIVED VERY LITTLE COOPERATION FROM THE SOVIETS.

3. WHILE THE INFRACTION IS, IN THIS CASE, RELATIVELY MINOR, THE GON IS SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE, DUE TO LAST AUTUMN'S SOVIET HELICOPTER CRASH AND THE MORE SERIOUS NONCOMPLIANCE WITH NORWEGIAN REGULATIONS ATTENDANT ON THAT EVENT.

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4. MFA OFFICIALS EXPECT TO SEE THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CURRENT INCIDENT CARRIED THROUGH WITH A MINIMUM OF RUSSIAN COOPERATION. ONE MFA SOURCE STATED THAT HE EXPECTED THE AUTHORITIES TO MAKE A FINDING AGAINST THE SOVIETS, BUT THAT THE ENFORCEMENT WILL BE IN THE FORM OF A WARNING OR OF A SET-ASIDE FINDING AGAINST THE SOVIETS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SOVIETS, WHO DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE NORWEGIAN

RIGHT TO ESTABLISH THE SPITZBERGEN NATIONAL PARK, WILL
CLAIM THAT THEY WERE ACTING WITHIN THEIR TREATY RIGHTS IN
ASSISTING THE POLES. THE LATTER HAVE, ACCORDING TO THE
MFA, OBSERVED NORWEGIAN REGULATIONS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT
AND OPERATION OF THEIR RESEARCH CENTER WITHIN THE NATIONAL
PARK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HELICOPTERS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, PUBLIC PARKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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